

Committee on Community Safety
December 11, 2008 Summary
Audiotape of the meeting is available at Town Clerk's Office
Minutes are available at Town Clerk's Office

1. Call to order: 7:05 pm

Present: Tony Casasanta, Mitch Page, Dave Tompkins, Sheryl Werner, Tim Manke, Mike Rizzuto

Absent: Chris Ganzer

Also attending: Val Ginn, Downtown Business Association, Dave Nagel, Town Council Liaison, Kris Nasinnyk, Town Council Liaison, Meg Casasanta, Board of Education Liaison, Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services, Sgt. Jason Saccente

2. Public Participation

- Jean Kapper commented about road safety and expressed concern regarding the crosswalk on E. Robbins and Flagler Rd. She walks her daughter to and from school each day and feels the area is dangerous with cars speeding and sometimes not stopping for crosswalks. She spoke with Sgt. Morgan who has been very responsive and helpful. The Committee and Sgt. Saccente responded to these concerns and discussed the need for a greater public awareness about stopping at crosswalks and traffic calming techniques for the neighborhoods.
- Dave Nagel commented that the State has fixed Willard and Robbins Ave and addressed the flooding that occurs and that is a positive. He advised the Committee about a non-profit group called Journey Home, a regional group connected to Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) with the goal of ending homelessness in the next ten years. They will be forwarding information to towns on their progress. Ken Freidenberg will follow up. Dave Nagel also stated that he has received some complaints regarding noise, unruly parties and underage drinking effecting neighborhoods. Sgt. Saccente commented that the Police will always respond when complaints are made and identified which laws address these issues.
- Rose Lyons commented that as a follow up to her concerns last month about the Safe Routes to Schools surveys she appeared before the Town Council. She received a call from Superintendent, Dr. Perlini and was pleased that the surveys will be done. Mitch Page and Ken Freidenberg updated the Committee and as suggested by Dr. Perlini parents on the SRTS Committee at Martin Kellogg surveyed parents during conferences Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mitch Page reported that parents were very pleased with the opportunity to give feedback. Meg Casasanta commented that the changes reducing the mileage for bus routes made by the Board at the beginning of the school year made a difference and reduced traffic congestion at all schools.

3. Downtown Business Association

Val Ginn attended representing the new Downtown Business Association and explained

their purpose. Safety issues from their perspective include speeding, kids on skateboards, kids hanging around a dumpster in the municipal parking lot, double parking and parking over the 2-hour limit. The Committee and Val discussed traffic calming options, upcoming and possible future events that will attract people to the downtown area. Everyone agreed there is good synergy between the two groups who are both interested in building a sense of a safe and friendly community. There was also further discussion about a digital welcome sign/community billboard that could publicize community events and public awareness messages.

4. Election of Vice Chair – Tim Manke was elected unanimously.

6. Other Business

- Dave Tompkins shared a report from the Town of Old Saybrook regarding their Asset Development community model and survey results. Search Institute website: www.search-institute.org/assets Dave has been involved for a number of years with the shoreline communities and has found this model to be very helpful for the communities who have used it. Some concerns were discussed particularly parent involvement, decisions about what questions to ask and whether parents can decide if their children can opt out of taking the survey. Rocky Hill recently administered a similar survey for the first time and are about to present their results. The Committee decided to invite representatives from both towns to the next meeting on January 8. The Committee also requested Ken Freidenberg invite the Superintendent, Board of Education, Town Manager, Town Council and Youth-Adult Council.

7. Public Participation

- Kris Nasinnyk commented that she feels there should be youth representation at these meetings to obtain their perspective. Tim Manke will talk with youth members on the Youth-Adult Council to encourage youth participation.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm



Respectfully Submitted: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services

Next Meeting: Thursday January 8 at 7pm Helen Nelson Conference Room